



BACKGROUND

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Global Climate Coalition An Overview

What It Is:

The Global Climate Coalition (GCC) is an organization of business trade associations and private companies established in 1989 to coordinate business participation in the scientific and policy debate on the global climate change issue.

GCC is dedicated to: 1) promoting scientific research on global climate change, 2) analyzing economic and social impacts of policy options, 3) creating an understanding of the global dimensions of the issue to ensure that solutions are addressed equitably by all nations, 4) encouraging transfer of technology to developing nations, and 5) promoting a voluntary commitment among members to "Guiding Principles for Business" that benefit the environment, are consistent with good business practices and are technically and economically feasible.

What it Does:

GCC is the leading voice for industry on the global climate change issue, and represents its members before government agencies, Congress, the media and the general public. The coalition contributes to a balanced debate on global climate change by sponsoring independent research and studies that examine the potential impacts of proposed global climate change policies on the economy. Through educational materials and programs, GCC supports an informed press and public, and an open scientific dialogue.

Where does GCC Stand?

GCC does not disagree with the presumption that there is a natural "greenhouse effect" which protects the Earth from the freezing rigors of space. In addition, GCC agrees that the amount of so-called greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere are increasing. It is an open question however, whether manmade contributions of greenhouse gases have contributed, or will ever contribute to an "enhanced greenhouse effect," which could result in a potentially harmful increase in global surface air temperatures.

There is considerable uncertainty within the scientific community about fundamental questions relating to this issue. Predictions about anthropogenic global warming are based on computer models designed to simulate atmospheric chemistry. GCC agrees with a growing number of scientists who point out that these climate models (which have been used to frame the debate) can neither confirm that global warming is occurring now or predict future climate changes. While some minor climate changes have suggested, it has yet to be determined whether these are the result of natural forces (like solar flares), human activity, natural long-term climate cycles or a combination of all of these factors.



GCC supports a coordinated international research program, the continuation of U.S. climate research efforts (\$1.4 billion requested for FY 1993), in addition to independent and industry sponsored research. GCC also supports activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that make sense in their own right, thus continuing sound business practices that will lead to more efficient use of energy.

GCC believes that there are trade-offs associated with many of the regulatory schemes to control greenhouse gas emissions. Some of these proposals would impose a direct tax on businesses and consumers through energy or environmental fees while other proposals would impose a hidden tax through other indirect, control measures. These trade-offs would include higher energy and product costs to American consumers, higher operating costs for industry and a potential negative impact on employment. Importantly, many of these proposals would create a competitive advantage for our international trading partners at the expense of U.S. jobs and economic growth.

Who are GCC Members?

The current membership of GCC represents a broad cross-section of U.S. business organizations and companies representing a range of industrial sectors, including: oil, coal, paper, automobile manufacturing, railroads, chemical manufacturing, and utilities.

How is GCC Structured?

The GCC Board of Directors serves as the organization's governing body. The Operating Committee oversees the functional implementation of GCC activities, and John Shlaes, Executive Director, has oversight of day-to-day operations. To address specific aspects of the global climate change issue and to evaluate policy options, GCC utilizes twelve committees, including Science and Technology, Technology Cooperation, Economic Analysis, Industry Initiatives, and International, to name a few.

For More Information:

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